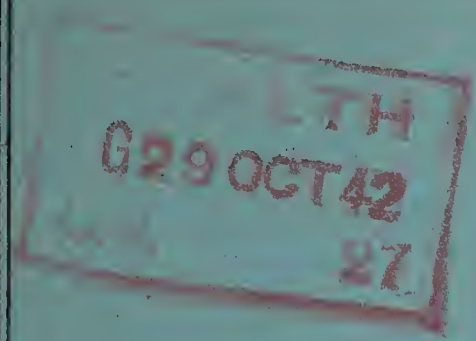
LIBRARY.



RUGELEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

YEAR 1941

Medical Officer's Report.

"The Benhill Press," 7 Horse Fair, Rugeley.

To the

Rugeley Urban District Council

RUGELEY.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1941.

The Birth Rate is considerably higher and the Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate slightly lower than those for the country as a whole.

Immunisation of children against Diphtheria was given special attention and the percentage of children immunised is very encouraging, though not reaching the target figure of 75%.

The opening of the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Board's Isolation Hospital at The Wissage, Lichfield, has already proved very advantageous.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health.—C. N. Smith, M.C., M.B., C.H.B.,D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer to the Staffordshire County Council and Medical Officer of Health to the Tutbury Rural District Council.

Sanitary Inspector.—J. T. G. Craddock, C.S.I.B., C.F.I., who is also Collector of the Council's rents.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of District	2882 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, 1941—	8261
No of inhabited houses end of 1941	2220
Rateable Value	£33,319
Sum represented by a penny rate	£128

Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F
Live Births	158	78	80
Legitimate	155	75	80
Illegitimate	3	3	—

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population, 19.12

		Total	M	F
Still Births	Legitimate ...	4	2	2
	Illegitimate ...	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1000 births (Live and Still), 24.6

	Total	M	F
Deaths	101	57	44

Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population, 12.2

	England and Wales	Rugeley U.D.
Birth Rate ...	14.20	19.12
Death Rate ...	12.90	12.20

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1000 live births	56.2
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births	50.9
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births	333.00

For England and Wales Infantile Mortality Rate is 59

Deaths from Cancer	13
Deaths from Measles	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	1

Deaths from Cancer according to age and sex.

7 Males aged 77, 77, 76, 69, 68, 54, 35.

6 Females aged 85, 78, 67, 64, 58, 40.

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Hospital Accommodation.

In September, 1941, the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board opened its hospital at The Wissage, Lichfield, and cases requiring hospital treatment have since then been sent there. This service has been of the greatest benefit to the district and has worked smoothly and expeditiously.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

An intensive effort to get as many children as possible immunised, in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, has been made during the year. As I have been carrying out immunisation for just over ten years in the District the situation was already favourable and the figures at the end of the year show that the percentage of children immunised is very much larger than those for the country as a whole.

Margate evacuated children.

None of these children had been immunised before reception in the area. The acceptance percentage was remarkably high, being 86%.

School children (including evacuees).

No. of eligibles	No. of consents	% of consents	No. immunised	Percentage immunised
794	593	74	565	65

Children under school age.

247 children were immunised, i.e., 58% (estimated).

A.P.T. was the material used, 2 injections.

No Schick testing was done, there being no time available for this procedure.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	33	27	Nil
Diphtheria	6	6	1
Measles	29	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	41	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Pneumonia	10	0	3

Analysis of Infectious Diseases classified according to age.

Age Groups	1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-35	36-45
Diphtheria				1		2		3		
Scarlet Fever	1	1		3	4	11	2	5	4	2
Measles	4	4	4	3	2	8	1		1	2
Whooping Cough	1	3	2	6	5	21	3			

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1941 there were 62 cases on the Register

MALES		FEMALES	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
19	18	13	12

New Cases and Mortality, 1941.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1-5			1					
6-15		1	1					1
16-25	1							
26-35	1	2						
36-45	1	1			1			
46-55		1						
56-65				1	1		2	
over 65								
Totals	3	5	2	1	2		2	1

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	10		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	16		
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers premises)	0		
Total	26	nil	nil

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	1
Total	1	1

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
Charles N. Smith,
Medical Officer of Health.

Housing.

Accommodation is very strained and there is a certain amount of overcrowding, which must have increased since the survey made in 1935, when it was found that 58 new houses were required. The scheme for building them was never completed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The scheme for sewering the parish of Brereton has been held up owing to the war and trouble arises from pollution of a stream by cesspools.

Water Supply.

The Council obtain their water supply in bulk from the South Staffordshire Water Co. The quality and quantity have been uniformly satisfactory.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	57	44
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...		
2 Cerebro-spinal fever		
3 Scarlet fever		
4 Whooping cough		
5 Diphtheria	1	
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	1	1
7 Other forms of tuberculosis diseases ...	2	1
8 Syphilis	1	
9 Influenza		
10 Measles		
11 Acute Polio-Wyelitis		
12 Acute Inf-Encephalitis		
13 Cancer of Buccal Cavity M. Heart F...	1	1
14 Cancer of Duodenum and Stomach ...	3	1
15 Cancer of Breast		
16 Cancer of other sites...	3	4
17 Diabetes		
18 Intra-Cranial Vascular Legions ...	2	4
19 Heart disease	9	6
20 Other diseases of circulatory system ...	4	4
21 Bronchitis	3	3
22 Pneumonia	2	1
23 Other respiratory diseases		2
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	
25 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...		
26 Appendicitis	1	1
27 Other digestive diseases		2
28 Nephritis	1	3
29 Puerperal and post abortive sepsis ...		
30 Other maternal causes		1
31 Premature birth	2	
32 Congenital mal. birth injuries... ...	2	1
33 Suicide	1	
34 Road traffic accidents		
35 Other violent causes	4	1
36 All other causes	13	7
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).		
Smallpox		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Total	7	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Legitimate ...	6	2
Deaths of Infants under 1 year — Illegitimate ...	1	
Live Births — Total	78	80
Live Births — Legitimate	75	80
Live Births — Illegitimate	3	
Stillbirths — Total	4	2
Stillbirths — Legitimate	4	2
Stillbirths — Illegitimate		
Population	8261	

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Eleventh Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Health Department during 1941.

Closet Accommodation.

The Town area is mostly sewered; and of the 1,650 houses in this area, only eleven have not been converted to the water carriage system. There are cases in the district of closets having no flushing apparatus; but during the year 2 houses have had water supply and apparatus provided.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the proper sewering of the Brereton area. In this area are 248 privies, and 131 water-closets to cesspools. At Etching Hill and Hednesford Road are 131 houses, sixty of which have water closets to cesspools.

Nuisances have again arisen during the year from the overflowing of the Cesspools at Hednesford Road; and in my opinion the sewering of this area is desirable.

Public Cleansing.

(a) **Dry House Refuse.**—The whole of the refuse of the district is removed by the Council's workmen in two covered vehicles.

(b) **Contents of Privies, Cesspools, etc.**—This is conveyed from the premises in a special Sludge cart and disposed of for manurial purposes.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :—During the year one Council House was found to be infested. The Council's workmen disinfested it by the following methods:—All picture moulding, skirting boarding, etc., was removed and sprayed at intervals. All defective plaster, nail holes, etc., were cut out; and the back of the boarding, the plaster, furniture, nail holes, etc., were sprayed with insecticide. The insecticide we used was Bo No. A spray is left with the tenant for frequent spraying. The workmen call after one month to repeat the spraying, make good the plaster, and

replace or renew necessary woodwork. Only distemper or paint is allowed on the walls. The tenant is given instructions to notify any reinfestation, and calls are made at intervals to see that the house is kept clean. The premises of prospective Council house tenants are examined, and, if infested we endeavour to disinfest the house and furniture by the method described above, before the removal of the tenant to a Council house.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in the area.

Shops Acts.

The Shops Inspector has been working in conjunction with the Health Department in regard to the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, etc.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Number of houses visited during the year, either in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Disease, or in course of investigating complaints, or in carrying out a systematic survey ...	1235
Number of Final Notices issued	51
,, ,, ,, complied with	49
,, Informal Notices issued	123
,, ,, ,, Complied with	72

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in above Notices.

Drains and Water Closets amended in construction and/or cleansed	14
Dwelling Houses needing repair	15
,, ,, Overcrowded	2
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	39
Scavenging	26
Offensive accumulations	15
Other matters	1
Removal of Caravan Dwellers	0
Shops Acts, Sanitary Conveniences, etc.	0
Cesspools emptied, etc.	11

Infectious Diseases.

Number of rooms disinfected	39
,, Schools	0
,, Beds	46

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken or found necessary.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

The Council have Bye-laws for Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District. There is a Chandlery and Tannery in the District. There are no underground sleeping places in the District. There are no Bye-laws for, Houses-let-in-Lodgings, tents, vans, sheds, etc., offensive trades, or Lodgings and accommodation for Hop pickers.

Schools.

In Rugeley town the sanitary conveniences are on the water carriage system. In the added area there is no sewer available and the schools have earth closets which are emptied every week. The water supply to all the schools is received from the Council's mains.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District on which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

Housing.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts 68

Number of inspections made for that purpose 209

(2) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 8

Number of inspections made for that purpose 38

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation 2

2. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defected dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 2

3. Action under Statutory powers.

A.—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1930, Sections 17, 18 and 23.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served and requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners ... ...

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	15
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	15
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ...	4
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which the Council accepted undertakings from the Owners not to let them for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished. They were houses in respect of which Owners had given undertakings not to relet ...	16

4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :—

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1936	58
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	58
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	370½
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c).—(i)—Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	14

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. 65 visits have been paid to farms and dairies; and the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Orders enforced. Seven informal notices were served and complied with.

There are sixteen Cowkeepers and Dairymen residing within the District, and there are ten Retail Purveyors, whose dairies are outside our District. The Staffordshire County Council carry out the sampling and examination of milk for Bacterial Content and for tubercle bacilli.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Number of inspections and visits to slaughterhouses	20
Number of inspections of Butchers' Shops, Cooked Meat Shops Fried and other Fish Shops, Stalls, etc.	1345
Number of Informal Notices served	7
,, ,, ,, complied with	7

All slaughtering of carcases except emergency slaughtering is now carried out at Stafford Abattoir.

I found the following unfit for human consumption and had same destroyed:—1 carcase of beef and offals, one box sausages, 30 lb. of bacon, and 114 eggs.

(c) Adulteration, etc. This is not an Authority for enforcing the Acts and Regulations referred to under this head.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological examination of food.

The Staffordshire County Council have provided laboratories and carry out such work.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. G. CRADDOCK.